

[NCC update.](#)

[11/04/24](#)

Nominations now open for the Flourish Awards 2024

Norfolk County Council has announced the return of the Flourish Awards for 2024 – with nominations now officially open.

Hosted by the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance (CYPSA), the distinguished awards recognise the people, projects, teams and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to help children and young people in Norfolk Flourish.

In its first year, the Flourish Awards received more than 300 nominations, with 160 different nominees selected. Eight winners were announced across the categories, with 16 others named Finalists.

The Flourish Awards welcomes nominations for individuals, teams, and organisations that have demonstrated excellence and a commitment to progress in their respective categories. Any project, team or organisation can be nominated by members of the public or a professional, with the winners being decided by a panel of children and young people (CYP), made up of members of Norfolk Youth Advisory Boards and other CYP groups, and parents.

There are eight Flourish Awards, each based on an area of young people's lives which are important to them. The eight nomination categories are:

- Family and Friends Award
- Learning Award
- Opportunity Award
- Understood Award
- Resilience Award
- Individuality Award
- Safe and Secure Award
- Healthy Award

For further information and to nominate, visit the official Flourish Awards website [here](#).

Adult Social Care: Safeguarding Adults - support and how to make a referral

In the course of your work as Members of Norfolk County Council, you may at times have contact with people in difficult circumstances for whom you may have concerns about their wellbeing and/or how they are being treated. You may also be approached by residents with similar concerns for those they know.

Norfolk's front door service, SCCE (Social Care Community Engagement) is the first point of contact for anyone concerned that an adult with care and support needs is suffering from mistreatment or neglect: SCCE offer support for those suffering a wide range of abuse, from physical to financial, and help keep people at risk of abuse and neglect safe from harm.

Anyone worried about the safety of an adult in Norfolk can make a referral to our Adult Safeguarding Team. They can do this by:

- Calling 0344 800 8020 at any time to report a concern
- Using Text Relay on 19001 0344 800 8020
- Completing an online form at www.norfolk.gov.uk/adultsafeguarding

People can find out more about signs of abuse, guidance, how to report a concern and what happens after reporting a concern on our county council webpages [here](#).

Our frontline practitioners can help in safeguarding situations however they are NOT medical experts and are not able to respond to immediate risk to life or medical concerns. If medical advice or support is required on behalf of yourself or another person, always call NHS 111. In an emergency, or if there is any sign of risk to life, dial 999 immediately.

Norfolk Library and Information Service

Getting Ready for School - support for National Offer day

This year, [National Offer Day](#) falls on Tuesday 16 April and many families will be finding out which school setting their child will be attending, in September 2024.

In readiness for this, new and updated Getting Ready for School bags will be arriving in Norfolk libraries across the county from Monday 15 April. The bags come in two versions, each with a different selection of books.

The bags and the book collections have been put together to help you and your child begin to think and talk about this change, and to help make the move to school as smooth as possible. Our libraries contain lots of other books which can help with emotions and getting ready for school, but we hope these packs provide a good starting point.

For more information, [visit your local branch](#) and speak to staff.

Government updates

Disability Confident guide for managers

A new version of the Disability Confident guide for managers, helping them recruit, retain, and foster the progression of disabled people and those with health conditions in the workplace, has been published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

DWP has worked in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development to develop the quick and easy guidance to ensure employers and employees get the most from the Disability Confident scheme, to boost disability employment and reduce the disability employment gap. The update guide is available [here](#).

Support for Disabled Passengers

Disabled passengers will benefit from almost £5 million being made available to make bus travel more accessible and roll out audible and visual announcements. Small bus and coach operators can now bid for a share of £4.65 million to install new technology that will both display and announce information clearly for all passengers, including those with sight and hearing impairments. Known as the Accessible Information Grant, this funding will support operators to fit screens, speakers and induction loops guaranteeing passengers are informed about which route they are on and what stop they are at throughout their journey.

The grant applications support regulations that were introduced last year requiring all bus operators to provide audio and visual updates on journeys.

This comes as the government, alongside charity Scope, has published the [Right to Ride guide](#) which helps disabled people and others with reduced mobility when using bus, coach, taxi, private hire vehicle and rail services by compiling helpful travel information together in one easy-to-read document. Right to Ride explains the actions a disabled person can take when a journey has been disrupted or the assistance provided is unsatisfactory or has failed.

Further information about the government grants and Right to Ride is available on the government website [here](#).

Fighting retail crime

Serial or abusive shoplifters will face tougher punishments as part of the government's measures to crack down on retail crime and protect UK highstreets. Assaulting a retail worker will be made a standalone criminal offence. Perpetrators could be sent to prison for up to six months, receive an unlimited fine and be banned from going back to the shop where they committed their crimes, with Criminal Behaviour Orders barring them visiting specific premises. Breaching an order is also a criminal offence and carries a five-year maximum prison sentence. For the most serious cases of assault, such as causing grievous bodily harm with intent, offenders could face a life sentence.

The action builds on the police's Retail Crime Action Plan, which was commissioned by the Crime and Policing Minister, last year. Further information available [here](#).

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

james